

b. Aquatic Communities

Numerous anadromous fish species use the Chowan River. The primary anadromous species expected to occur in these waters are blueback herring, alewife, American shad, hickory shad and striped bass. Other species found in the Chowan River include largemouth bass, bluegill, channel catfish, lake chubsucker and tessalated darter. These fish feed on a variety of living and organic matter including other fish, algae, insects, worms, crustaceans, snails and detritus.

No in-water work will be performed in the Chowan River between February 15th and June 15th, due to the presence of anadromous fish. In addition, NCDOT's Stream Crossing Guidelines for Anadromous Fish Passage will apply to the Chowan River crossing.

In addition to the Chowan River, there is a crossing of Buckhorn Creek in the project area. Buckhorn Creek is an example of a small, coastal swamp stream, which can support a wide variety of fish species due to the complex habitat structure provided by underwater tree roots and leaf and branch litter. Fish species likely to occur in these waters include mud sunfish, eastern mudminnow, swamp darter, golden shiner and the bluespotted sunfish. Other animals likely present include several of the previously mentioned amphibian species and some of the mammalian species that inhabit both aquatic and terrestrial communities.

c. Summary of Anticipated Effects

Project construction will have various impacts to the previously described terrestrial and aquatic communities. Table 7 presents the expected effects of the project on terrestrial communities.